

A375_2016AbstractZiarkoJoanna

Abstract

Diversity in children's literature is something of great importance, yet it is something rarely seen. Children need to see themselves in literature they can understand; additionally, children need to gain empathy and understanding for people unlike themselves. As a Polish American proud of my culture, I have noticed a severe lack of Polish American characters in children's literature. More importantly, there are *no* children's books in existence about Pazczki Day, a holiday special to those who identify as Polish. My thesis consists of a diverse children's book I wrote and self-published about Pazczki Day titled *Busia 's Bakery*.

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